



AN EXCERPT FROM THE LIFE OF ANNA MARIA GERBER

Mother was in poor health the first two years after Father's death, but began going out as a midwife in 1873. Her success was remarkable and she was credited with the saving of many lives. There was no doctor in the county and her field of labor extended to every settlement in Wasatch County. She merited, because she was not only doctor, nurse and maid, but was a real mother to the destitute and sick. In some instances she faced severe snow storms, real blizzards in order that she might wait on the sick. Often on foot through the drifting snow and driving wind she would go answering the call of the suffering. At one time when the weather was severe, she brought a new baby into the world. Because of poverty there were no clothes for the newcomer. Mother took off her <sup>underskirt</sup> ~~petticoat~~ and wrapped the infant in it. The following day she visited the neighbors and solicited clothes, and food for the destitute family.

One night there came a knock on the door. It was an expectant father. "Come quick, Mother Gerber, my wife is having a baby!" Then in his excitement he jumped on his buckboard and drove off into the night, leaving Mother the three miles through the snow to walk alone. Many times Mother was called out to administer to a sick animal. Once a horse had run a huge splinter into its side. The men didn't dare extract it so they sent for Mother. They roped the horse down, and she climbed on top, cut the horse's side open with a butcher knife, removed the splinter, and sewed the wound.